

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well. Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we collectively handle the challenges posed by Covid-19.

You will no doubt have seen the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will re-open fully, for all students, from Monday 8th March, with testing in place for all students. The Government has given secondary schools discretion as to how we phase the return to the academy over that week, in order to accommodate our arrangements for testing. I am writing to you now to clarify our arrangements.

We are looking forward to having all students back in our academy, and want to assure you that – as has been the case throughout the coronavirus crisis – we will ensure the academy is as safe as it possibly can be. Your child's health, and the health of all our students and staff, remains of paramount importance.

Arrangements for our phased return from Monday 8th March

We will offer three Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) to all students as they return over the period of the first two weeks. Testing is not compulsory but is strongly encouraged.

Please find attached a further letter outlining the arrangements for the testing and for you and/or your child to give consent to taking part in the testing scheme. Please read this and return the relevant consent to us by Wednesday 3rd March. You can access form and submit instantly via:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=xdLyfqiXBUG8-uPBju_zX4_ykgUUXC9NrC_DkH1V-jFUMFVXSkpNMIhMWFRQTTZRSINIWUIOUUZPQi4u

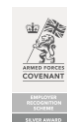
We will be inviting students to return wearing full academy uniform and as one year group at a time each day. The schedule for this phased return is attached to this letter. This safe, steady and gradual approach will ensure that students return to full face-to-face education the day after their first test. Should there be any positive cases following the LFT, we will be able to act decisively at that point and ensure any potential exposure to other individuals is limited. Following their first test, students will make their way home from the academy and it is your responsibility to ensure they do so in order to continue with remote education until the following day, when they return to the academy fully. Tests 2 and 3 will be completed during the academy day once all students have returned fully to the academy from week beginning Monday 15th March. As an overview, year groups will return as follows (**please see the attached schedule and read carefully for detailed timings for your child**):

Year 11

Return for LFT ONLY on Monday 8th March with a return to academy lessons on Tuesday 9th March

Year 10

Return for LFT ONLY on Tuesday 9th March with a return to academy lessons on Wednesday 10th March



Year 9

Return for LFT ONLY on Wednesday 10th March with a return to academy lessons on Thursday 11th March

Year 7 (confirmed as Year 7)

Return for LFT ONLY on Thursday 11th March with a return to academy lessons on Friday 12th March

Year 8 (confirmed as Year 8)

Return for LFT ONLY on Friday 12th March with a return to academy lessons on Monday 15th March

After the initial period of on-site testing, we will be issuing home testing kits for you to use with your children twice a week at home.

Public health guidance remains that if your child either develops symptoms of Covid-19 or tests positive, they must self-isolate and you should ensure that we are aware in order that we can assist with contact tracing.

Please note that from the first day of attendance indicated above, attendance will now be compulsory as it was prior to the pandemic for all students, apart from those who are able to demonstrate that they have been advised to shield on medical grounds.

It is important to note that we will continue to provide a remote education offer to students prior to their return to face-to-face education at the academy.

Please ensure your child returns to the academy in full academy uniform, and that all expectations regarding our academy Behaviour Policy, including appropriate hair colour, are fully met. Achievement Coordinators will warmly welcome students on their return for their initial Lateral Flow Tests and use the opportunity to check and ensure that our students are fully prepared for their return to the academy.

Keeping our academy safe

We will continue to follow the government's public health guidance very closely, ensuring social distancing and 'bubbling' wherever possible and encouraging excellent personal hygiene. We will also continue to arrange for additional deep cleaning of our site on a regular basis and maintain a safe and Covid-secure environment for everyone following their return.

One particular change is that the government is now strongly advising staff and students to wear face coverings in all parts of the academy wherever social distancing is not possible. Please ensure that your child is aware of this new expectation and we appreciate your support in doing everything you can to help us facilitate this key change in guidance.

The Government's announcement indicates we are tentatively returning to a form of 'normal'. However, I wanted to reiterate how alert we are to the continued risk of Covid-19. We will continue to adhere to stringent health and safety measures. Your support in helping us be as safe as possible is much appreciated and will help ensure we stay open to all students and keep our key stakeholders safe.

Yours faithfully,



Mr K. Uppal
Principal